Dirk Wachtaelaer’s companion piece to his impressive ‘konstruktion/dekonstruktion’ (FMRC89-0701) features all the components that make this percussionist/electronicist such an intriguing talent. Processing and sampling his own acoustic drum samples, Dirk then triggers these using an Octapad, in turn creating whole new rhythms and sound. This excellent CD comprises twelve tracks of experimental, yet infectiously rhythmical music and features additional ‘performances’ from regular contributors: saxophonist Luc Mishalle, percussionist Michael Weiacher and Japanese (electric) trumpeter Toshinori Kondo. Those who haven’t entered Dirk Wachtaelaer’s soundworld before could do no better than through this great new recording.

I had been playing acoustic drums for over 15 years when I started working with electronics. With the arrival of samplers I got into programming and processing. In the beginning I used all sorts of sounds but later I limited myself to using only my own drum samples. At that time I started working with Japanese trumpet player Toshinori Kondo. We tried many different things and the final result was our CD ‘Find A Planet’ (together with DJ Grazhoppa, out on Spiritual Nature). Some time ago Kondo sent me some tracks that we had worked on in the very beginning and that we had completely forgotten about. Track 12 is one of those tracks. After that I started working on an electro-acoustic set-up for my drums. My first solo CD (Elac Drumming, Ashams 9045) was made using bass drum, snare drum and hi-hat. I miked these and sent the microphones to effects modules (7). The only musician I worked with using this set up was Belgian sax player Luc Mishalle (2).

Then I started processing my drum samples (using an Akai S2000 XL) and triggered these using an Octapad. This set-up worked great in combination with acoustic percussion (6,8). Later I sent these processed also through external processing devices, mainly a Sherman filterbank and a dual noise gate (like on Konstruktion/Dekonstruktion, FMRC89). The processing got more and more abstract, making the acoustic drum-sound vanish completely (13).

Tracks 1,3,5,9,10 and 14 are longer drumparts that I processed. Track 4 is a combination of processing and editing.

All music composed by Dirk Wachtaelaer, except re (wachtaelaer/mishalle), recons (wachtaelaer/weiacher), reconstr (wachtaelaer/weiacher), reconstrukt (wachtaelaer/kondo)

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